

Principles for Olmstead Planning

In its initial meeting, the core workgroup began a process of defining a set of principles to guide its work. These fell, somewhat loosely, into three categories, with some overlap. The first was a set of premises, or foundations, on which all planning should be based. The second set related to how the planning process itself should take place. The third spoke to what should be included in the plan itself; that is, the desired outcomes.

The Consumer Task Force, a subcommittee of the workgroup, is charged with refining this set of principles.

1. Foundations

- Strong consumer-professional and family-professional partnerships.
- People with disabilities must be central participants in planning, developing, and providing services.
- People are unique and their support needs are unique.
- Needs should be met in a dignified fashion.
- Each person, each family are the experts about their own needs.
- Accountability should be based on consumer satisfaction and measured by positive outcomes.
- All individuals are entitled to a quality life.
- A comprehensive plan should address the needs of all people with disabilities regardless of age, type of disability, income, etc. It should not discriminate based on categorical disability.
- Choice is Job 1.

2. Process

- Systems change must be statewide.
- Planning for the implementation of Olmstead has to be a collaborative process.
- It should incorporate existing plans and initiatives. (give and take – a two way street.)

- Should identify those individuals in institutions and nursing homes who want to live in the community and the supports that will be needed.
- Planning and implementation should be conducted with the highest level of respect for each other and for our differences.
- The plan should include points of accountability, timeliness and responsibilities.
- Should result in a collaborative statement across agencies.

3. Desired Outcomes

- Services should be consumer-driven.
- Consumer and family education about person-centered planning and control of services, including availability, quality, variety.
- Should include services that improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.
- Services should be aimed at developing self-sufficiency in decision-making with support from family and community.
- Plan should lead to continued reduction in LTC facilities and institutions and toward increased community-based supports.
- Plan should focus on life long needs for support.
- Plan should look at broad spectrum of support needs – not just traditional services.

OLMSTEAD PLANNING CORE WORKGROUP COMMITTEES

The following committees of the workgroup have been established. The committees will be asked to review their charges and make recommendations regarding focus and specific tasks. Committee co-chairs will be in touch with members to arrange meeting logistics.

1. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Committee Charge:

- Evaluate current system of services.
- Develop framework for evaluation based on Workgroup's principles.
- Gather and analyze data regarding service needs.
- Develop projections for future needs.
- Make recommendations for ongoing needs assessment; i.e. how information will be maintained, coordinated, updated, etc.
- Evaluate and recommend tools for individual service needs assessment.

2. BEST PRACTICES

Committee Charge:

Identify, examine and recommend best practices in and models for:

- Services.
- Service delivery.
- Service coordination.
- Service organization.
- Services monitoring/quality issues.

3. RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT & COORDINATION

Committee Charge:

- Develop cost projections for service models based on needs assessment and recommended service models.
- Evaluate available resources for implementation of recommended service models, including grant resources.
- Evaluate and make recommendations regarding coordination of resources.
- Project additional resources needed; prepare cost models for state/legislative considerations.
- Identify other potential resources for funding.

4. CONSUMER TASK FORCE

Committee Charge:

- Refine and recommend a coherent set of guiding principles for the Workgroup and for inclusion in final report.
- Monitor and review committee work products for adherence to guiding principles.
- Monitor and review development of Real Choice Systems Change grant.
- Provide consumer input to AMA in development of additional grants.
- Develop and recommend strategies to maintain formal consumer input in service planning.
- Develop and recommend strategies to manage diverse consumer involvement throughout the Olmstead planning process.